

this issue to get it right. Hundreds of billions of dollars are at stake, and terrible consequences await American families and businesses as health care costs mount if we fail in our duty. While we still have the time before the economic, fiscal, and health consequences become too urgent for deliberate action, let us not fail in our duty. Let us grasp the controls of change.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Washington is recognized.

#### ENERGY PRICES

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I rise this morning to talk about the high gas prices we are seeing all over America and certainly on the west coast, where Washington State is paying some of the highest gas prices in the Nation.

My point this morning is that we are approaching the Memorial Day weekend in which Americans will be remembering loved one and wanting to spend time with their families, but this Memorial Day might go on record as having the highest gas prices in our Nation's history. That means we in the Senate need to act on energy legislation that not only diversifies us off fossil fuels into more renewables and alternative fuels, as well as pass energy conservation measures, it also means we need to protect consumers with a strong bill that makes price gouging and market manipulation of energy markets illegal. We need to assure that there are tough Federal penalties on the books so that any kind of market manipulations will be met with fines and penalties.

I know many people think this is all just about supply and demand. It is pretty hard to tell the people of Washington State it is just about supply and demand when we have five refineries in the State of Washington and most of our oil comes from Alaska. And people say we are an isolated market. In fact, there are schools in our State that are feeling the brunt. One of the school districts in the Yakima Valley, where buses travel more than 2,200 miles each day, will have to spend about \$125,000 more this year on fuel. That is revenue which could go to books or hiring teachers or other needs for the school. In Spokane, the volunteers for Meals on Wheels, which usually delivers 350 meals a day to homebound elderly and disabled residents, are having to cut back on their routes. Another constituent called the office to say he was having trouble paying for gas he needed to make the 80-mile round trip to the Tri-Cities to get kidney dialysis for his wife. That loving husband said he was either going to have to quit his job or move closer to the facility so they could avoid paying high prices of gasoline. So while the pundits are talking about just supply and demand, my constituents and many constituents across this country are feeling the pain at the pump.

It is time that we act and pass the Cantwell-Smith bill, which we will have a chance to do when we return after the Memorial Day recess. This legislation is based on a New York law that has been held up in the courts and gives the Federal Trade Commission the ability to do the job that is needed to investigate potential market manipulation and price gouging. Many of the statutes that are on our books today are inadequate for looking at markets when there is a tight supply.

I heard a great deal about supply and demand during the Western energy crisis. For probably my entire first year in office, that is all we heard about from various people who wanted to say that the Enron problems were nothing more than supply and demand and the failure to build more capacity. In fact, when it came down to it, there was a lot more to this question than lack of supply in California. It turned out that there were elaborate schemes to manipulate energy markets, with names such as Death Star, Get Shorty, Fat Boy, schemes in which people deliberately took supply off line or manipulated it just to drive up prices by suppressing supply.

My colleagues have worked hard in the last several years to put into statute protections for consumers to make sure electricity and natural gas markets are not manipulated. This law is based on the same protections the Commodity Futures Trading Commission and the SEC use to make sure there is not manipulation in those markets. Why not have the same protection for consumers as it relates to oil and gasoline markets?

I hope that when we return, we will give great attention to this issue and not be swayed by those who think this is a simple market-demand issue. If we want to protect the consumers of this country, we will pass a strong law that gives the ability for Federal regulators to do their job. I believe there are real U.S. jobs, pensions, and businesses on the line if we do not act and act aggressively. The American people want to know that the Senate is going to stand up and do something about these record gas prices. They want to know that they are paying a fair and market-based rate for fuel and that they will continue to have the transparency in oil markets to make sure prices are reasonable and affordable, and they want to be sure we are empowering the right people to make sure an investigation takes place.

As I said, there is much that we need to do in the near term and the long term for our energy markets to diversify and to give consumers real choice at the pump, to make sure we are investing in conservation and fuel efficiency. But in the meantime, with tight energy markets, we need to make sure we are giving consumers the protection they need and to pass this legislation when we return after the recess.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator is recognized.

#### IMMIGRATION

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I am going to use time in morning business to discuss the very important bill that is before us that we will be going on in about 20 minutes, and that is the immigration bill. This sometimes is referred to as the "grand compromise."

It is no secret that I have had concern about the immigration issue, and now specifically this bill, and in my opinion it contains an amnesty program. I know around here those who are backing this "grand compromise" don't want us to use the word "amnesty," but I think if it walks like a duck and quacks like a duck, it is a duck. So I am going to refer to it as the amnesty program for illegal aliens already in the United States.

Not too many Senators today can say they voted for the 1986 amnesty bill. That was the Simpson-Mazzoli Act, the present law we are amending. I did vote for that amnesty bill, so, in a sense, I voted for amnesty. I am here to tell you that I felt at that time as though I were doing the right thing. I can also tell you that now, looking at history, it was the wrong thing to do. I thought then that taking care of 3 million people illegally in the country would solve the problem once and for all. I found out, however, if you reward illegality, you get more of it. Today, as everybody has generally agreed, we have 12 million people here illegally.

I did believe that bill would solve our problems, but it was not only short-sighted, the one we passed 20 years ago, it turned out to be unworkable. It was soft on enforcement and weak on legal reforms. We believed a legalization component was in the best interest of the country.

The American people, myself included, thought that illegal immigration would decline with an amnesty program. We were wrong. The 1986 legislation failed us, as well intended as it was. That was not a bill that went through very quickly. That bill was worked on over a period of 6 years, as we have been working on other immigration legislation at least over a 3- or 4-year period of time.

Today we are back as a body we call the Senate to put another bandaid on this issue. I don't blame the American people for being angry or rejecting the promises some are making that we will enforce our laws from now forward because I heard that same thing in 1986—from now forward. I think it is fair to say the people of this country are cynical on this issue. They don't have any